

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 271550Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 705

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2150

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, CZ

SUBJECT: SCOTT PROPOSAL

EXDIS

1. NOVOTNY, ACTING HEAD OF MFA SIXTH DEPARTMENT, TOLD POLCOUNSELOR JULY 26 THAT BUZEK, ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, HAD INFORMED SCOTT ON JULY 19 THAT SPACIL WOULD BE UNABLE TO MEET WITH HIM BEFORE SEPTEMBER. SPACIL NOW ON VACATION, FOLLOWING WHICH HE MUST VISIT SPA FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. SPACIL APPRECIATES SCOTT'S EFFORTS, AND LOOKS FORWARD TO MEETING WITH HIM AGAIN. FROM BUZEK'S REPORTING CABLE, NOVOTNY HAD IMPRESSION THAT SCOTT WAS "DISAPPOINTED" AND THAT HE MIGHT TRY TO CONTACT SPACIL BY PHONE. HE DID NOT KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH AN ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE.

2. NOVOTNY TOLD POLCOUNSELOR THAT IN HIS OPINION, SCOTT PROPOSAL WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOC. MFA HAD NOT RECEIVED FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM ANY OF THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS IT HAD CONTACTED, E.G., MINISTRIES OF FINANCE AND FOREIGN TRADE. THIS NOVOTNY CHARACTERIZED AS "NOT SURPRISING", SINCE GOC WAS BEING ASKED TO UP THE ANTE WITH NO ASSURANCE THAT SENATORS LONG AND GRAVEL COULD DELIVER ON THEIR PROMISES. (COMMENT: NOVOTNY THUS SAVED US THE TROUBLE OF MAKING THIS POINT CLEAR TO GOC. END COMMENT)

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3. NOVOTNY SAID THAT IF SCOTT STILL WISHED TO VISIT

PRAGUE, CERNY WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE HIM, BUT THAT CERNY OF COURSE WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS THE SCOTT PROPOSAL. THUS HE, NOVOTNY, FELT IT PREFERABLE TO WAIT FOR SPACIL'S RETURN.

4. NOVOTNY STATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO WRITTEN RESPONSE TO SCOTT'S LETTER AT THIS TIME, AS SPACIL WAS AWAY AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VEJVODA, WHO IS ACTING IN HIS STEAD, COULD NOT LOGICALLY RESPOND.

5. NOVOTNY TOLD EE DIRECTOR ANDREWS JULY 23 THAT PRIME MINISTER STROUGAL WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ISSUE WITH AMBASSADOR DURING JULY 27 MEETING.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN TRADE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRAGUE02150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760289-0565
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760718/aaaaapem.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCOTT PROPOSAL EXDIS
TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, CZ, (GRAVEL, MIKE), (LONG, RUSSELL B), (SCOTT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006